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BOEING DELIVERS THREE APACHE HELICOPTERS TO INDIAN ARMY

American aerospace major Boeing on Tuesday delivered the attack choppers to the Army as part of a contract to supply six helicopters

BIG PUSH TO STRENGTHEN DEFENCE MIGHT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called it a significant step towards strengthening India's defence capabilities. "The arrival of the first batch of Apache helicopters is a significant step towards strengthening India's defence capabilities. These helicopters will enhance the Army Aviation wing's operational effectiveness in challenging terrains," Singh said on X

AH-64E CAN SURVIVE COMBAT DAMAGE

- In 2020, Boeing had completed delivery of 22 E-model Apache helicopters to the Indian Air Force and had signed a contract to supply six AH-64Es for the Indian Army, a statement said |P11
- The AH-64Es can survice combat damage, carries a 30 mm M230 chain gun, and has nose-mounted sensors that provide night vision

₹4,168cr

IS WHAT THE DEAL WITH BOEING FOR 6 APACHE HELICOPTERS IS WORTH

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Oppn stalls Parliament on SIR; double standards, says govt

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav, RJD MP Misa Bharti, DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and others during a protest | PTI

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

PARLIAMENT logjam continued for the second day on Tuesday amid protests by the Opposition demanding a discussion on the poll roll revision in Bihar. However, the government accused the opposition of employing 'double standards' by asking for a debate but still disrupting the House.

The Lok Sabha witnessed chaotic scenes as Opposition members refused to budge from their demand of discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar ahead of assembly polls later this year. As Congress, TMC and DMK MPs stood up raising placards, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House till noon.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said it was agreed on Monday that Pahalgam would be discussed. "Only the rule under which discussion will take place to be decided," he added.

Earlier, INDIA bloc members led by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi protested at the Makar Dwar of Parliament.

The Upper House also saw two adjournments during the pre-lunch period, before it was finally adjourned within minutes of meeting at 2 pm.

Soon after the House met for the day, Opposition members were on their feet demanding discussions on Operation Sindoor in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides on the Bihar SIR issue.

Ghanshyam Tiwari, who was chairing the proceedings, informed the House regarding a notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs conveying resignation of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with immediate effect.

Prez poser: All states get SC's notice on bill assent timeline

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

Murmu's reference

The reference sought, among others, answers on options before a Governor when a Bill is presented under Article 200; and if they are bound by aid and advice of the council of ministers

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to examine a Presidential reference that seeks the court's opinion on questions concerning the roles, powers, and timelines for governors and the President in according assent to bills passed by state legislatures.

A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai and comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar, issued notice to the Centre and all states and sought their responses by July 29 on the question whether timelines could be imposed for dealing with bills passed by assemblies. The court fixed the matter for further hearing to August 29.

During the hearing, when senior advocate P Wilson, for Tamil Nadu, submitted that the matter would directly affect his client, who objected to the maintainability of the reference, the CJI said, "The issue concerns not only TN but the entire country." Senior lawyer K K Venugopal, representing Kerala, raised objections regarding its maintainability too. On April 8, a two-judge bench comprising justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, while hearing TN's case against its governor, ruled that a governor does not possess any discretion under Article 200 in respect to any bill presented to them and must mandatorily abide by the advice tendered by the council of ministers. President Murmu moved the court on May 13, with 14 questions challenging the SC's April 8 verdict that fixed timelines for governors and President to act on bills passed by state assemblies.

KARPOORI THAKUR'S SON LEADS V-P RACE

NDA plans to play the BC card on Dhankhar's successor

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

A day after Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar suddenly resigned citing health reasons, the NDA weighed options to field a candidate from the backward or extremely backward classes as his successor.

Several NDA MPs, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the ruling alliance is leaning toward a nominee from the backward communities. Among the names doing the rounds, Ram Nath Thakur — currently Minister of State for Agriculture and son of former Bihar chief minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Karpoori Thakur — is being seen as a frontrunner. Belonging to the *Nai* (barber) community, which falls under the *ati-pichhara* category, Thakur's candidacy is seen as a nod to caste dynamics ahead of upcoming elections.

Outgoing V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar

Also reportedly in the mix is BJP president J P Nadda. Senior party leaders suggest that a cabinet reshuffle may precede any formal announcement, should Nadda emerge as the chosen one. Other contenders include former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje, Bihar Governor Md. Arif Khan, former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

While speculation briefly hovered over Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, JD(U) insiders were quick to dismiss it. "This doesn't seem to be happening," a senior party leader said.

With the NDA commanding 422 MPs across both Houses, it has a comfortable cushion over the 394 votes required to elect the next V-P. Government sources indicated a preference for a consensus candidate, with a decision expected after July 26.

Dhankhar's abrupt resignation came hours after he admitted an Opposition-backed motion seeking the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, currently under scrutiny following a major cash seizure at his residence.

Some believe his decision to admit the motion may have conflicted with the government's own strategy, which was reportedly focused on a separate course of action. The Rajya Sabha notice, signed by 63 Opposition MPs and admitted by Dhankhar, instructed the Secretary General to initiate procedural steps — a move seen by some as independent and possibly at odds with the ruling party's preference of joint motion as it was in the Lok Sabha.

Adding fuel to the fire was the absence of ministers Nadda and Kiren Rijiju from the Business Advisory Committee meeting chaired by Dhankhar on Monday. "The V-P was visibly upset," said a senior Opposition figure, also pointing to a tense moment during a debate when Nadda reportedly remarked, "Only what I say will go on record" — a statement seen by some as undermining the Chair. Nadda later refuted any rift.

Full term for new V-P

His successor shall serve a full term in office. Article 67 says, "The Vice-President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office."

Poll asap: Article 68

According to Article 68, an election to the post of V-P because of his death, resignation, removal or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy

32-day process

The process starts after the EC notifies the vacancy and ends in 32 days. Its electoral college comprises Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha MPs

AT OVER ₹2 LAKH, K'TAKA TOPS NATION IN PER CAPITA INCOME

TOP STATES
Karnataka: ₹2,04,605*
Tamil Nadu: ₹1,96,309
Haryana: ₹1,94,285
Telangana: ₹1,87,912
Maharashtra: ₹1,76,678
* PER CAPITA

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

KARNATAKA has emerged as the state with the highest per capita income in the country for the Financial Year 2024-25, crossing the Rs 2 lakh threshold, according to data presented by the Ministry of Finance in the Lok Sabha.

The state's per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at constant prices reached Rs 2,04,605, registering a staggering 93.6% growth from Rs 1,05,697 in 2014-15.

Nationally, India's per capita Net National Income (NNI) for 2024-25 was Rs 1,14,710, up 57.6% from Rs 72,805 a decade earlier.

While the overall trend shows a rise in incomes, statewise disparities remain significant. Karnataka led the chart, followed by Tamil Nadu at Rs 1,96,309.

Karnataka's income nearly doubled over the past decade, outperforming most major states. Compared to 2013-14, when its per capita income was Rs 1,01,858, the state saw an 88.5% jump by 2023-24. P4

TOP SEAT

Ex-Infy techie now Newcastle tech director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SUDARSHAN Gopaladesikan, a one-time research assistant at Infosys in Bengaluru, has been appointed as technical director of English Premier League side Newcastle United. Newcastle, one of the richest clubs in world football thanks to their direct links with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), announced the news on their social media handle late on Monday.

"... Sudarshan will lead the club's football data operations, working closely with Eddie Howe (head coach of the men's first team) and his coaching staff and the club's performance, medical, analysis, methodology and recruitment teams," a club press release read. "His role will be dedicated to implementing data-informed practices across all sporting departments throughout men's, women's and Academy teams."

Gopaladesikan started off as a techie before joining Portuguese giants Benfica where he oversaw the data science programme. At Atalanta in 2024, he saw the Italian Serie A oufit lift the UEFA Europa League.

4TH TEST

SHUBMAN GILL HITS OUT AT ENGLAND

India captain Shubman Gill accused England of not upholding the spirit of the game as the fallout of the time-wasting drama of the third Test continued. India are yet to finalise their XI for the Test | P17

NCBS STUDY

Pesticide overuse fuels drastic drop in bird species

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

INCREASING and unregulated use of chemicals like insecticides and pesticides – especially neonicotinoids – and change in agricultural patterns have drastically affected grassland bird species across India. This is compromising soil nutrient cycle, pollination, seed dispersal and eco-system engineering in which the threatened bird species play a key role. This is bound to have an adverse impact on public health ultimately, says a study by Bengaluru-based National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).

The NCBS researchers point out that avian species are not just aesthetically important, but are valuable tools in the large food-chain and agricultural pattern. They feed on insects, bees and other pests. They noted that while many western countries have banned the use of pesticides and fertilizers, unregulated usage continues in India, affecting local and migratory bird species.

Similar is the case with the continued use of banned drugs like the Diclofenac and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) - painkillers given to cattle and consumed by humans. This has forced a drastic decline in populations of all six Indian vulture species.

Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides chemically similar to nicotine, and are being rampantly used in agriculture and veterinary medicine. They are absorbed by plants and transported throughout their tissues, including pollen and nectar. CONTINUED ON P5

Long-term decline in 204 bird species

Researchers assessed the status of 942 bird species. The report highlighted that 204 bird species suffered long-term decline and 142 species were facing a current decline

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